

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8586

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2741

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL FROM AMBASSADOR SELDEN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER NZ (SELDEN, AM. ARMISTEAD I.)
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS FOR AMBASSADOR SELDEN

REF: A) STATE 181009; B) WELLINGTON 2709

1. SINCE RECEIVING YOUR CABLE ON WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, I HAVE CONSIDERED MATTERS THAT NEEDED DISCUSSION AT WASHINGTON LEVEL. ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER KIRK WITH PRESIDENT FORD HAS NOW BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED DUE TO STATE OF PRIME MINISTER'S HEALTH, I SHOULD NEVERTHELESS LIKE TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER TO LOOK INTO VARIETY OF MATTERS THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION. I WOULD EXPECT TO COMBINE WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WITH SEMI-ANNUAL VISIT TO OTHER THREE COUNTRIES, WESTERN SAMOA, FIJI AND TONGA, TO WHICH I AM ACCREDITED.

2. AMONG PROBLEMS I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP PERSONALLY WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ARE:

PRIME MINISTER'S CONTINUING HEALTH PROBLEMS
AND EFFECT IT IS HAVING ON GNZ AS WELL AS ON THE POLITICAL
SITUATION IN NEW ZEALAND;

VERY SERIOUS INFLATION AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
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PROBLEMS FACING NEW ZEALAND, AND IMPLICATIONS THESE HAVE

FOR US-NZ RELATIONS;

IMPLICATIONS FOR US-NZ TRADE CONTAINED IN CURRENT
NEW ZEALAND TARIFF STUDIES;

EFFECTS NEW ZEALAND'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
DEFICIT MAY HAVE ON GNZ COMMITMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA;

AND CONTINUING PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN CHNCERY
IN WELLINGTON, OVERALL PROBLEMS OF HOUSING OFFICIAL
AMERICANS IN WELLINGTON AND SUVA, AND AUCKLAND CONSULATE
GENERAL STAFFING PATTERN.

FINALLY, AND THIS RELATES TO DISTANCE AND
ISOLATION OF NEW ZEALAND FROM BROADER WORLD CURRENTS,
I FRANKLY FEEL A NEED TO TOUCH BASE WITH OFFICIALS IN
DEPARTMENT AND ELSEWHERE IN THE ADMINISTRATION IN VIEW
LATEST CHANGES.

I WOULD ALSO EXPECT TO CONSULT WITH CINCPAC
IN HONOLULU ABOUT ANZUS OFFICIALS' MEETING AND OTHER
DEFENCE RELATED MATTERS.

3. IF AUTHORIZATION RECEIVED, I WOULD LIKE TO DEPART
NEW ZEALAND ON SEPTEMBER 14, WITH OFFICIAL
STOPS IN FIJI, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA AND CINCPAC,
ARRIVING WASHINGTON ON OCT 5. CONSULTATIONS
WOULD LAST UNTIL OCTOBER 16, RETURNING WELLINGTON
IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

IF IT IS DETERMINED LATER THAT I SHALL
OFFICIALLY REPRESENT UNITED STATES AT FIJI CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER, MY ITINERARY CAN BE REVERSED
BUT KEPT WITHIN SAME TIME FRAME. THAT IS, I WOULD
PROCEED FIRST TO WASHINGTON AND VISIT PACIFIC ISLANDS
ON RETURN TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS YOU ARE
ABLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH SOME SORT OF DEFINITE WORD.
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SELDEN

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